

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
receiving, at a central site, a call identification information and a corresponding response instruction, from a remote user;
receiving a call;
automatically identifying the call; and
responding to the call in accordance with the corresponding response instruction.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the call identification information is an originating telephone number of the call.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein in the call identification information is a name of the caller.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a call includes receiving a call forwarded to the central cite after the call was originally directed to the remote user's telephone.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes presenting a particular recorded voice message.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes forwarding the call to a particular alternative telephone number of the remote user.
7. A system comprising:
 - means for receiving, at a central site, a call identification information and a corresponding response instruction, from a remote user;
 - means for receiving a call;
 - means for automatically identifying the call; and
 - means for responding to the call in accordance with the corresponding response instruction.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the call identification information is an originating telephone number of the call.
9. The system of claim 7, wherein in the call identification information is a name of the caller.
10. The system of claim 7, wherein receiving a call includes receiving a call forwarded to the central cite after the call was originally directed to the remote user's telephone.
11. The system of claim 7, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes presenting a particular recorded voice message.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes forwarding the call to a particular alternative telephone number of the remote user.

13. A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, at a central site, a call identification information and a corresponding response instruction, from a remote user;

receiving a call;

automatically identifying the call; and

responding to the call in accordance with the corresponding response instruction.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the call identification information is an originating telephone number of the call.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the call identification information is a name of the caller.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein receiving a call includes receiving a call forwarded to the central site after the call was originally directed to the remote user's telephone.

17. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes presenting a particular recorded voice message.

18. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the corresponding response instruction includes forwarding the call to a particular alternative telephone number of the remote user.